NICE PDG hearings on health responses to domestic violence

Respect: male victims and work with perpetrators
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Male victims of domestic violence

- We’ve run the Men’s Advice Line for 10 years
- We’ve helped thousands of male victims
- Research controversies abound
- We use our real-time monitoring system
- Data from 3000 male victims 2010-2011 presented here
British Crime Survey

- Reports focus on frequency (how many people EVER abused – one or more) rather than incidence (how many individual incidents – without this, hard to measure repeat victimisation)
- Analysis usually ignores context and consequences
- Data often excludes sexual assault
- Data sometimes combines IPV with FV
- Data often presented in percentages, which can be misleading, as lower numbers of men than women are victims in total
- However it is good national data set and it is what we have
BCS continued: repeat victimisation

- About a third of all male victims and a quarter of all female victims were abused once only in 2007/8 (Roe, 2009)
- 2% of male victims and 5% of female victims abused more than 50 times in last year (Roe, 2009)
- Remember that there are more female victims than male, so the percentages have different effects, so:
  - Out of all the victims who were abused 6 or more times, 70.6% were female
  - Of all the victims who were abused 50 or more times, 76.6% were female
    (Debbonaire, analysing data from Roe, 2009)
Homicide victims who knew suspects
2009-10 BCS report (Smith et al 2010)

Male victims (421)
- 50% acquainted with main suspect (212)
- 5% (one in 20) killed by partner, ex-partner or lover (21 victims)

Female victims (198)
- 76% (150 victims) acquainted with main suspect
- 48% killed by partner, ex-partner or lover (94 victims)
Comparison: percentages

- Male victims:
  - Other family: 11%
  - Partner/ex: 21%
  - Stranger: 48%
  - Friend/aquaintance: 35%
  - No suspect: 14%

- Female victims:
  - Other family: 13%
  - Partner/ex: 5%
  - Stranger: 34%
  - Friend/aquaintance: 7%
  - No suspect: 11%

421 male
198 female
Comparison: numbers

- Male victims: 421
- Female victims: 198

Categories: son/daughter, parent, other family, partner/ex, friend/aquaintance, stranger, no suspect.

- Son/daughter: 17 male/23 female
- Parent: 10 male/11 female
- Other family: 19 male/7 female
- Partner/ex: 21 male/21 female
- Friend/aquaintance: 145 male/14 female
- Stranger: 148 male/26 female
- No suspect: 61 male/22 female
British Crime Survey: is it equal?

At first glance:

- “there’s nearly equal male and female victims”

- “11% of men and 18% of women experienced 6 or more incidents in last year”

- “Men less likely to report than women”

But actually that’s…

- Only for “one or more” incidents in lifetime – not for repeats, injuries, fear

- This looks close is a misquote – it’s 11% of m/fvictims - so in fact 72.5% of all victims of 6 or more incidents in last year are women

- BCS is not police; Hester shows men do report to police anyway
So…

- Men and women experience domestic violence;
- BCS doesn’t say when it is self-defence or defending children - we lack context;
- Women experience majority of sexual assault, ongoing domestic violence, fear, injury and domestic homicide;
- Proportions of 6 or more incidents in last year victims seem to be roughly one quarter male and three quarters female – good estimate for starting to quantify local provision?
- We help thousands of male victims – and do work with female perpetrators too
Experiences and needs of male victims

- Many similar experiences
- Female perpetrators more likely to use weapons – so when violence is serious, risk of injury high
- Specific injury areas e.g. Groin, face
- Sometimes mis-diagnosis – men presenting as victims can be perpetrators whose victim has used violence, or men in unhappy relationships
- Some fear won’t be believed – as women
- However, men do call the police and use the legal system (Hester 2009)
Sexual abuse

- Very few heterosexual men talk about sexual abuse
- Nearly half of gay men report sexual abuse
- Many gay men report rape

- Heterosexual victims report being sexually humiliated or belittled or told they are not father of children
What do male victims ask for (2010 and 2011 combined)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of help</th>
<th>Number asking for this (out of 3,049)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Legal advice</td>
<td>975 (32%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counselling</td>
<td>558 (18%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>533 (18%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>285 (9.5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing helpline (Shelter)</td>
<td>217 (7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local authority housing department</td>
<td>214 (7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parenting support</td>
<td>175 (6%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perpetrator programme</td>
<td>82 (3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBT support</td>
<td>45 (1.5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local male victims’ support</td>
<td>35 (1%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt counselling</td>
<td>34 (1%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drug/alcohol counselling</td>
<td>22 (0.75%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s refuge</td>
<td>16 (0.5%)</td>
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H&SC services for male victims

- Proportionate – British Crime Survey figures suggest 3 to 1 in amount based on figures for 4 or more incidents in last year
- Recognising the likelihood that some perpetrators will present or be mis-diagnosed as victims especially if partner has used violent resistance
- Knowledge of assessment tools helpful
- Knowledge of local specialist support – particularly for GBT men
- Understanding of different needs as well as same
Interventions with perpetrators

- Likely to be group work with up to 12 men, 2 facilitators (m+f)
- Linked partner support/contact (proactive)
- Case and risk management
- Aim to increase safety of victim and children

- Substance misuse can affect participation
- Ditto mental ill health
- New developments include co-location in children’s services
Evidence re perpetrator programmes

- Mixed evidence – some concerns re RCT
- Some claims that there are no effects -0 but these are often small sample, low follow up
- Some claims modest effect – 10% is good enough for some clinical trials
- Some claims for programme effect + system effect – Gondolf 2002
- Gondolf 2012 provides good overview of current debates and developments in evidence based practice with perpetrators